

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE NEW BIRDS FROM
CUBA AND THE BAHAMAS.*

BY WILLIAM PALMER AND J. H. RILEY.

Owing to the continuation of our work in Cuba it has been thought best to postpone the publication of the entire results of our expedition there in 1900. Meanwhile it seems desirable to publish the descriptions of the three following birds:

***Zenaidura macroura bella* subsp. nov.**

Type.—No. 172,537, U. S. National Museum, ♂ ad., Mariel, Cuba. Collected May 9, 1900, by William Palmer and J. H. Riley.

Characters.—Similar to *macroura* of the eastern United States but smaller.

Remarks.—Six adult males from Cuba average,—wing, 137.5; tail, 123.5; exposed culmen, 13 mm. Eight adult males from the eastern United States average,—wing, 150.5; tail, 140.5; exposed culmen, 14 mm.

The band on the upper surface of the tail is less distinct in our Cuban birds than in those from the mainland, and there are other slight differences in color, but the size alone is sufficient ground for separation.

***Columbigallina passerina aflavida* subsp. nov.**

Type.—No. 171,194, U. S. National Museum, ♂ ad., San Diego de los Baños, Cuba. Collected April 10, 1900, by William Palmer and J. H. Riley.

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Characters.—Similar to *passerina* of Jamaica, but the bill black with a little red at the base; plumage slightly grayer.

Remarks.—The ground dove from Cuba differs from the Bahaman ground dove in being darker, above and below, with less whitish on the belly and crissum. The ground dove from Jamaica* is very similar to the Cuban form in size, but has a reddish cast to the plumage, and the base of the bill is yellow (orange in life); the bill of the Cuban bird is wholly black, except at the base of the lower mandible where it is red in life. The bird from the Bahamas is said to have the bill wholly black in life. The bird from Florida, *C. passerina terrestris*, is the largest of the four forms under consideration, and the plumage is of a grayer cast than in either *passerina* or *aflavida*, but not as light as in *bahamensis*; the base of the bill is red in life, drying out to yellowish in the skin.

***Riccordia æneoviridis* sp. nov.**

Type.—No. 108,572, U. S. National Museum, ♂ ad., Abaco, Bahamas. Collected March 27, 1886, by U. S. Fish Com. Str. Albatross.

Characters.—Above and below bright bronze-green; wings purplish black; tail above bronze, deepening into black, with bronzy reflections on the two outer pairs of feathers; tail below deep steel blue; upper tail coverts bronze; crissum and lower belly white; a white spot a little above and behind the eye; upper mandible, in the dried skin, black; lower mandible yellowish, tipped with black.

Measurement of type.—Wing, 53; tail, 43.5; exposed culmen, 17; middle tail feathers, 22.5 mm.

Remarks.—The bird from Abaco is of a more coppery green both above and below than the bird from Cuba. In the Abaco bird the bill is slenderer, the fork of the tail less pronounced, and the middle tail feathers broader than in Cuban birds; also the tail of *riccordii* is not coppery bronze as in Abaco birds. Fourteen males from Cuba average: wing, 52.5; tail, 44; middle tail feathers, 21; exposed culmen, 18 mm. Fifteen males from Abaco average: wing, 52.5; tail, 42; middle tail feathers, 23; exposed culmen, 17 mm.

The type of Lawrence's *bracei* came from New Providence and is a mummy. Comparing the bird from Abaco with this type, shows it to be a different bird or else the colors have changed in *bracei*. The type of *bracei* is of a more coppery green, and the throat is of a brighter, and altogether different shade of green than in the series of Abaco birds before us. The bill of *bracei* is longer than in either Abaco or Cuban birds. The type of *bracei* measures: wing, 45; exposed culmen, 19 mm.

*We are indebted to Mr. Outram Bangs, for the loan of a series of Jamaican ground doves in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.